1	IN THE UNITED	STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE	DISTRICT OF HAWAII
3	MATTHEW R. LEIMBACH,) CIVIL NO. 14-00246JMS-RLP
4	·)
5	Plaintiff,) Honolulu, Hawaii) June 29, 2015
6	VS.) 11:03 A.M.
7	HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH; WILCOX MEMORIAL HOSPITAL; KAUAI MEDICAL CLINIC,) [31] DEFENDANTS HAWAII) PACIFIC HEALTH; WILCOX) MEMORIAL HOSPITAL; AND KAUAI
8	Defendants.) MEDICAL CLINIC'S MOTION TO) DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S FIRST
9) AMENDED COMPLAINT
10	TRANSCR T	
11	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE J. MICHAEL SEABRIGHT,	
12	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE	
13	APPEARANCES:	
14	P	STEPHEN M. SHAW, ESQ.
15	п	Ionolulu, Hawaii 96804
16	Pacific Health,	VILLIAM S. HUNT, ESQ. VAN M. VERNON, ESQ.
17		Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1800 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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19		
20		Cynthia Fazio, RMR, CRR
21	P	United States District Court P.O. Box 50131
22	H	Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
23		
24		
25	Proceedings recorded by machine shorthand, transcript produced with computer-aided transcription (CAT).	

- 1 MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015 11:03 A.M.
- THE CLERK: Civil Number 14-246JMS-RLP, Matthew
- 3 Leimbach versus Hawaii Pacific Health, et al.
- 4 This case has been called for a hearing on Defendants
- 5 Hawaii Pacific Health; Wilcox Memorial Hospital; and Kauai
- 6 Medical Clinic's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's First Amended
- 7 Complaint.
- 8 Counsel, please make your appearances for the record.
- 9 MR. SHAW: Morning, Your Honor. Stephen Shaw on
- 10 behalf of opposing party Mr. Matthew Leimbach. Mr. Saccoccio
- 11 will not be appearing with me this morning.
- 12 THE COURT: All right. Good morning.
- MR. HUNT: Good morning, Your Honor. William Hunt and
- 14 Jan Vernon appearing for the defendants.
- 15 THE COURT: All right. Yes, good morning.
- MS. VERNON: Morning.
- 17 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hunt, are you up?
- MR. HUNT: Thank you. We're asking the Court to have
- 19 this complaint dismissed since the plaintiff did not and cannot
- 20 plead a legitimate claim under EMTALA. We've requested the
- 21 Court consider the complete emergency department of records
- 22 that we have attached to the complaint. And under Iqbal and
- 23 the Ritchie case we believe the Court has the discretion to do
- that to get a complete, accurate history of what actually
- 25 happened in this case rather than the very misleading portions

- 1 that were quoted by the plaintiff in their -- in his complaint.
- 2 And we believe it's only fair the defendants have the
- 3 complete factual record in front of the Court because here the
- 4 medical record demonstrates that Mr. Leimbach had a complete
- 5 and full screening examination both times that he went to the
- 6 emergency department.
- 7 The Iqbal case requires that a claim for relief must
- 8 be plausible on its face and that the Court can draw a
- 9 reasonable inference based on the Court's judicial experience
- 10 and common sense as to whether or not the defendant is liable.
- 11 And we believe that there's sufficient evidence and allegations
- 12 before the Court for the Court to do that.
- The complaint read by itself or even in conjunction
- 14 with the medical records that we have attached demonstrate that
- 15 the plaintiff cannot set forth an EMTALA claim that's plausible
- 16 on its face. There was no refusal to treat Mr. Leimbach
- 17 because he was uninsured or for any other reason. In fact, as
- 18 the Court held in the Eberhardt case: The purpose of EMTALA is
- 19 to ensure that the hospitals do not refuse essential emergency
- 20 care because of the patient's inability to pay. It doesn't
- 21 require a correct diagnosis, which is basically what they are
- 22 claiming here. There can be no EMTALA claim unless there's an
- 23 allegation and evidence that the procedure followed was not
- 24 designed to identify an emergency medical condition. And that
- 25 is clearly not the case here.

- 1 In the first emergency department visit, if you look
- 2 at just the allegations in the complaint, he had a full work --
- 3 emergency department workup over close to five hours, including
- 4 physical examinations by a nurse who took blood pressure,
- 5 temperature and other readings, and a complete blood test as
- 6 well as an X-ray of his ankle because he had a history of
- 7 jumping off a truck. There could be no question that the
- 8 emergency department provided an adequate and appropriate
- 9 medical examination under the circumstances for this type of
- 10 complaint. His condition was, as presented at that time, was
- 11 diagnosed, treated and stabilized.
- 12 At best the plaintiff here alleges a medical
- 13 malpractice case, and as the court held in Baker and the Bryant
- 14 cases, EMTALA does not create a national standard of care. And
- 15 as the court noted in Eberhardt and Jackson, negligence in
- 16 screening or diagnostic process does not violate EMTALA.
- Bryant, Jackson and Eberhardt courts have all held the
- 18 hospital's only duty is to stabilize conditions that its staff
- 19 detects after a screening examination.
- 20 Jackson found that sufficient extreme examination
- 21 included multiple tests, examination by a nurse and a doctor as
- 22 occurred here.
- 23 Here in the first emergency department visit
- 24 Mr. Leimbach received a lengthy evaluation, a diagnosis of a
- 25 viral syndrome and an ankle sprain. He had an X-ray of his

- 1 ankle, multiple blood tests and a diagnosis reached, he was
- 2 stabilized and he was discharged, he did not return for three
- 3 days.
- 4 The second visit, which is also part of their
- 5 complaint, ended with him being hospitalized. He never was
- 6 discharged from the emergency department. He was hospitalized
- 7 within several hours of presentation at the emergency
- 8 department and operated on the next day.
- 9 There is no EMTALA claim on that second visit since he
- 10 was never discharged from the emergency department, he was
- 11 admitted to the hospital. And under the Bryant case and other
- 12 Ninth Circuit cases clearly there was no EMTALA claim in that
- 13 situation.
- Even at that time, if you just look at the allegation
- in the complaint, the complaint admits that the surgeon who did
- 16 surgery the next day didn't even find necrotizing fasciitis.
- 17 At best he said it's a possible very early necrotizing
- 18 fasciitis and he found that the fascia was intact. So their
- 19 argument that he was suffering from necrotizing fasciitis four
- 20 days earlier and that the emergency department missed that,
- 21 again, that's a negligence claim. But even if true, that's not
- 22 shown by the records that are before the Court and even in the
- 23 complaint allegation.
- This is not a case such as one cited by the plaintiff
- 25 where the patient was turned away by the receptionist with an

- 1 obvious bleeding hand and not seen by any doctor.
- 2 Finally, it's also clear that all of defendants other
- 3 than Wilcox are not appropriate EMTALA defendants under this
- 4 claim.
- 5 THE COURT: So it should just be a hospital, right, in
- 6 your view?
- 7 MR. HUNT: Yes. And I think it's clear from Eberhardt
- 8 and the other cases that only a hospital is -- that treats,
- 9 diagnoses, treats and cares for patients is the appropriate
- 10 defendant. And there's no allegation that any of these other
- 11 defendants had any duty to diagnose, treat or care for the
- 12 patient. And he's got the hospital in here as a defendant.
- 13 THE COURT: All right. Well, I think I have a good
- 14 handle on the facts and the EMTALA claim. The claim for
- 15 declaratory relief I'm a bit confused by and I can talk to
- 16 Mr. Shaw about this.
- MR. HUNT: Thank you.
- 18 THE COURT: But as I understand it, he seeks a
- 19 declaratory judgment that he doesn't have to go to MICP with
- 20 the EMTALA claim is what he's seeking. Is there a dispute as
- 21 to that?
- MR. HUNT: And I don't understand it because we went
- 23 to the MICP in this case. So, I'm not quite -- I think it's a
- 24 question that's moot.
- 25 THE COURT: Did you go on negligence claims or the

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1 EMTALA claim?
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- 2 MR. HUNT: I think both. I believe both.
- 3 THE COURT: Is it necessary to go to the MICP --
- 4 MR. HUNT: I believe that --
- 5 THE COURT: -- on the EMTALA claim.
- 6 MR. HUNT: No, I believe the federal courts --
- 7 THE COURT: It's not, right?
- 8 MR. HUNT: -- have held that it's -- they're not
- 9 required to follow state administrative proceedings.
- 10 THE COURT: Right. Okay. All right. Thank
- 11 you.
- Mr. Shaw.
- 13 MR. SHAW: Should I?
- 14 THE COURT: Up to you. Up to you. Just so I can hear
- 15 you.
- MR. SHAW: Thank you.
- On the exhibit, looking at the Ritchie case that was
- 18 cited by the movant, it says that none of the attached
- 19 documents form the basis of, I believe it was Horner's
- 20 complaint and she did refer extensively to any of them. That's
- 21 what we have done. We're not basing our entire complaint on
- 22 excerpts from the medical chart. Our entire complaint is based
- 23 on the elements of an EMTALA case.
- 24 THE COURT: Well, let me stop you because I'm a little
- 25 confused. Are you objecting to me considering those medical

- 1 records?
- 2 MR. SHAW: I am. I don't think that that's
- 3 appropriate right now and it's not a -- I wouldn't like this
- 4 converted over to an MSJ because we need to do discovery.
- 5 THE COURT: No, I'm not going to do that. That's not
- 6 my intent to do that, but --
- 7 MR. SHAW: Right, I --
- 8 THE COURT: -- I'm not sure if it's not appropriate to
- 9 do, though, where you do refer in the complaint to medical
- 10 records.
- MR. SHAW: I understand. And, you know, the reason
- 12 that I do is because of Iqbal and the related cases that
- 13 require us to be more, I would say, factual in our pleading
- 14 than we had to be before those cases.
- The same goes with the issue of whether or not there
- 16 is -- the disparate treatment was because of inability to pay.
- 17 We don't really have to have that in there, but it's part of
- 18 the factual overlay of the case.
- 19 THE COURT: Well, I'm just talking about, aside from
- 20 this case for a minute, I mean just a procedural -- federal
- 21 procedure essentially.
- MR. SHAW: Understood.
- THE COURT: When you do reference, which you do a good
- 24 deal, about the medical conditions and what was -- what was
- 25 observed and done in the ER and the hospital, it seems to me I

- 1 can take into account those medical records then because the
- 2 complaint does rely on them. Maybe not totally, I understand
- 3 that, but your complaint does have a heavy dose of reference to
- 4 what happened medically while in the emergency room on both
- 5 occasions.
- 6 MR. SHAW: I understand, but it's -- the problem with
- 7 just those documents is that I think under the rule of
- 8 completeness not everything is charted that's done. And if we
- 9 were to allow those records that are just the records of
- 10 certain things that were -- they decided to put into the
- 11 medical chart, then a whole bunch of other things, for
- instance, things that my client told people that aren't
- 13 charted, it would seem that those would be valid to consider.
- 14 And so this record or this proffer is not complete.
- 15 THE COURT: All right. Okay.
- 16 MR. SHAW: Then on the issue of whether or not this
- 17 hospital is -- what status the Hawaii Pacific Health has, at
- 18 our Paragraph 35 we go into defendant hospital is a principal
- 19 or franchisor, and that's at Document 21, Page 17.
- THE COURT: Well, let me say this, what I usually
- 21 would require in a case of this sort, and I don't know if I'm
- 22 going to -- this would be true whether I deny the motion or
- 23 grant the motion with leave to amend and then you amend,
- 24 whichever way I go on it, it is to see if you can reach an
- 25 accomodation as to who the appropriate defendant is and that

- 1 would -- and if you have some questions as to that, I think you
- 2 can talk to Mr. Hunt and get an agreement from him that if
- 3 there is liability Wilcox is the appropriate defendant and
- 4 would be financially responsible for any potential --
- 5 MR. SHAW: That would be fine with me to --
- 6 THE COURT: And that usually is the way I work these
- 7 things out is to have counsel sit down. Because what Mr. Hunt
- 8 is saying is it should be Wilcox, and you're saying, Well, I'm
- 9 not so sure. But if you can get in writing from him yes, it is
- 10 Wilcox and should there be a settlement slash judgment of some
- 11 sort in the case down the road, Wilcox admits that it would be
- 12 the responsible party for it, then that would satisfy your
- 13 concerns, it seems to me.
- MR. SHAW: Sure, I think we could -- we could work it
- 15 out and I'd be happy to do that, or try to do that.
- 16 THE COURT: And that just takes away, you know, the
- 17 unnecessary parties in that instance. And so whether I go
- 18 forward -- I'm sorry, whether I grant the motion with leave to
- 19 amend or deny the motion, or grant the motion in part and deny
- 20 in part, whatever I might do, I'm going to ask that you folks
- 21 get together and have that discussion. I assume you can work
- 22 that out, Mr. Hunt.
- 23 MR. HUNT: I believe we can, Your Honor.
- 24 THE COURT: All right. Okay.
- MR. HUNT: Thank you.

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1 THE COURT: All right. So that's a small matter, but
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- 2 make sure you get together, at least after my order comes out,
- 3 to have that discussion. Okay?
- 4 MR. SHAW: I think that I've briefed this, but it's
- 5 worth repeating. The elements in this EMTALA case on our Count
- 6 1 and Count 3 --
- 7 THE COURT: Of Claim 1 or --
- 8 MR. SHAW: Of Claim 1, yes.
- 9 THE COURT: It's very confusing the way you pled this.
- 10 MR. SHAW: I'm sorry. And I'm looking at the Jackson
- 11 case where it says at 246 F.3d 1248 at 1256: We now adopt this
- 12 comparative test. We hold that a hospital satisfies EMTALA's
- 13 appropriate screening requirement if it provides a patient with
- 14 an examination comparable to the one offered to other patients
- 15 presenting similar symptoms.
- 16 That would be Count 1 and Count 3 of our first claim,
- 17 which is a disparate --
- 18 THE COURT: As I understand your counts there are
- 19 different methods of proof to get to the screening provision of
- 20 EMTALA; is that accurate?
- 21 MR. SHAW: I think they're actually separate causes of
- 22 action because as I go in --
- 23 THE COURT: Well, I have a problem with that, I'll
- 24 tell you that now, to have a separate cause of action. It
- 25 seems to me different proof.

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1 MR. SHAW: Well --
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- 2 THE COURT: I'm not sure how to instruct the jury on
- 3 that necessarily, I haven't thought about through that, but
- 4 there's one -- you know, there's two ways to violate EMTALA,
- 5 right, two statutory provisions.
- 6 MR. SHAW: Right. But I think if you go backwards to
- 7 the first days of EMTALA. One was, you know, you would -- the
- 8 hospital would kick someone out because they couldn't pay.
- 9 That's -- that was disparate treatment, person's too poor.
- 10 THE COURT: But there's screening. And that gets to
- 11 screening, right?
- MR. SHAW: It does get to screening.
- 13 THE COURT: And it's how you prove that they're not
- 14 doing the screening it seems to me.
- 15 MR. SHAW: Well, the thing is that the second part of
- 16 that language is unless the examination is so cursory that it
- is not designed to identify acute and severe symptoms that
- 18 alert the physician of the need for immediate medical attention
- 19 to prevent serious bodily injury.
- I don't think the Ninth Circuit meant to put that
- 21 phrase that I just read ahead of disparate screening. And I
- 22 say this because in the reply I see that -- to show disparate
- 23 screening we would have to go on and prove, plead and prove
- 24 designed to identify acute and severe symptoms. And I believe
- 25 those are two different, I would say causes of action or claims

- 1 because of the proof requirement. I don't believe that for a
- 2 disparate claim, disparate examination claim that we have to go
- 3 through that type of proof. The reason is that there are so
- 4 many ways to treat someone differently. One is at the
- 5 threshold where they come in and the receptionist says go to
- 6 the VA, take the ambulance. Ambulance driver, you guys get up
- 7 to VA right now because we don't treat any VA people, and the
- 8 person dies right there. I don't think that the Ninth Circuit
- 9 meant to require that same amount of proof for a cursory -- I
- 10 would say a cursory examination claim.
- 11 And the word "cursory" is a little bit I think
- 12 confusing to many courts because some of them seem to be
- 13 requiring, as Mr. Hunt is arguing, oh, look, all these tests
- 14 were done and everything is, you know, was fine and there's no
- 15 problem. Just because of the quantum of tests that were done,
- if you take this phrase that I last read, just because there
- 17 were a lot of things done doesn't mean that it was designed to
- 18 identify acute and severe symptoms.
- 19 So, Your Honor, I've read this and reread it and I've
- 20 tried to -- I've struggled with the same thing. Is it one
- 21 cause of action with a whole bunch of different elements of
- 22 proof or do we break -- does the Ninth Circuit want us to break
- 23 this up into two. And tracking through the other
- 24 jurisdictions, it seems to me that cursory comes up at one type
- of claim that can be brought under EMTALA. The other one is

- 1 disparate treatment. And they overlap, some of the
- 2 decisions --
- 3 THE COURT: I mean it may be it may ultimately be
- 4 irrelevant, because I mean if you prevail you get one set of
- 5 damages, you don't get 2 set of damages --
- 6 MR. SHAW: That's true.
- 7 THE COURT: -- for different types of breach if that's
- 8 what you're --
- 9 MR. SHAW: They do overlap and the courts -- sometimes
- 10 they'll find, they'll say, Well, look, we've got a cursory
- issue here, and they'll go into disparate treatment and it gets
- 12 confusing. Whereas the other area is on our, I believe it's
- 13 our third count where we're arguing that they didn't follow
- 14 their practices and procedures, then you start getting into
- 15 disparate treatment even though it may be a cursory examination
- 16 issue.
- 17 THE COURT: All right.
- 18 MR. SHAW: So, the other issue that came up in some of
- 19 the pleading was whether or not we have to have -- what's our
- 20 standard, do we have to show exact symptoms? And I saw that in
- 21 some of the opposition argument.
- The case law is to other patients with similar
- 23 symptoms. And I don't believe that at the pleading stage that
- 24 we would be required to show evidence of a lot of other people
- 25 with similar symptoms, but we have. We've shown enough to get

- 1 in the door. That there were people that were coming in with
- 2 flesh eating bacteria symptoms and they were treated
- 3 differently. And I think that's -- we don't have to plead at
- 4 this stage a close identity of symptoms. I think it comes up
- 5 in discovery and expert witnesses where they start to fight
- 6 over whether or not the symptoms were similar under, I
- 7 believe -- yes, this is Jackson versus eBay at 246 F.3d at
- 8 12 -- Page 1256 where the language is similar symptoms.
- 9 So, if somebody is coming in and they've got, for the
- 10 pleading purposes that they've got some flu-like symptoms, a
- 11 swelling of a leg, and those people were all given MRI's and
- 12 they happened to have had insurance or some other feature, or
- 13 no reason at all, and then another person comes in and gets no
- 14 MRI and has similar symptoms, then I think for at least
- 15 pleading purposes we've met that standard.
- 16 Again, Count 2 I've already argued on that one.
- 17 And the other -- the second and third claims I would
- 18 submit on the pleadings.
- 19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Shaw.
- MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Mr. Hunt?
- MR. HUNT: The only thing I would add, Your Honor, is
- 23 at least with --
- 24 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.
- MR. HUNT: I'm sorry. The only thing I would add is

- 1 with regard to the second emergency room visit, I mean it's
- 2 clear he was admitted. And the law is clear that once you're
- 3 admitted there can be no EMTALA claim. He was never discharged
- 4 from the ER, he was allowed -- he remained in the ER because
- 5 they didn't have a bed, as we've shown in the record.
- 6 THE COURT: What time period do I look at, when he was
- 7 admitted to the hospital or are you admitted to the emergency
- 8 room? I mean he goes to the emergency room, he was admitted at
- 9 some point, but a bed wasn't available, or something happened,
- 10 there was a bit of delay before he got out of the emergency
- 11 room, right?
- MR. HUNT: Yes.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay. So what point is your view EMTALA
- 14 cuts off?
- 15 MR. HUNT: As soon as he's admitted to the hospital.
- 16 THE COURT: That time of admission.
- 17 MR. HUNT: Right.
- 18 THE COURT: All right.
- 19 MR. HUNT: And in addition, it doesn't really matter
- 20 because he never left the emergency room. They never
- 21 discharged him or transferred him without stabilizing him. He
- 22 stayed there, he was stabilized, he was admitted in the
- 23 hospital.
- 24 THE COURT: So let me ask you about the other
- 25 individuals who apparently had NF and the comparative analysis

- 1 that Mr. Shaw has put forward.
- 2 MR. HUNT: I'm not quite sure what you're asking, Your
- 3 Honor.
- 4 THE COURT: Well, he had these three other
- 5 individuals -- I think it was three, maybe four -- who came
- 6 into the hospital he said were treated differently.
- 7 MR. HUNT: That's what he said. Now, we haven't gone
- 8 back because we can't --
- 9 THE COURT: No, no, but why is that not enough, is my
- 10 question to you.
- 11 MR. HUNT: Because I believe if you look at each of
- 12 those -- I mean the issue is really not who comes to the
- 13 hospital with necrotizing fasciitis, but who comes to the ER
- 14 with, you know, cold symptoms and a swollen ankle after jumping
- 15 off a truck. Do they all get MRI's? I don't believe so. He's
- 16 quoted people that -- one is a toddler, you know, a kid,
- 17 another one -- I mean there's -- even on their face they're
- 18 significantly different than Mr. Leimbach's situation. And I
- 19 don't believe that he sufficiently alleged that --
- THE COURT: So your view is they're not similarly
- 21 situated, that's --
- MR. HUNT: Correct.
- 23 THE COURT: -- the bottom line. Okay. All right.
- 24 MR. HUNT: Right. You can't compare people that were
- 25 diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis at the time in the

- 1 emergency room to someone who comes in with cold symptoms and a
- 2 swollen ankle after jumping off a truck and doesn't come back
- 3 for three days.
- 4 THE COURT: You know, one thing -- and this is -- has
- 5 nothing to do with the merits, I was a little concerned about
- 6 was your naming those people as opposed to using the initials
- 7 in the complaint, Mr. Shaw.
- 8 MR. SHAW: Well, thanks to Google --
- 9 THE COURT: That may be, I understand. I figured that
- 10 there were some degree of public record on this.
- 11 MR. SHAW: These are from news articles.
- 12 THE COURT: What I'd ask you to do, just ask, I'm not
- ordering, think about if I do dismiss this and give you leave
- 14 to amend, if you do come back, use initials, but then you can
- 15 just tell the opposing side who that person is.
- 16 MR. SHAW: That would be fine, Your Honor.
- 17 THE COURT: You know, just to protect them a little
- 18 bit. Because if the news picks up on this these are the sort
- 19 of things people don't want --
- 20 MR. SHAW: Okay. That's fine. As far as the issue of
- 21 being left in an emergency room before one is admitted, I
- 22 couldn't find a case where delay, delayed admission, when
- 23 you're under the umbrella of the hospital that has an emergency
- 24 department, what I'm characterizing this as is just storing
- 25 somebody until they could get whatever approval they needed or

- 1 someone out of a bed in the hospital in order to admit them.
- 2 So the claim is not based on failure to admit, the claim is
- 3 based on a delayed admission. And when -- it wouldn't
- 4 matter --
- 5 THE COURT: The problem is it doesn't look like
- 6 dumping, right? I mean it is an anti-dumping statute. It sure
- 7 doesn't look like dumping when they admit him. Now, there's a
- 8 delay. Well, delay can be for a lot of reasons in getting that
- 9 bed in a hospital. But there doesn't appear to be any effort
- 10 to dump in any way when they admit him. And a delay doesn't
- 11 add to an argument there is some sort of dumping.
- MR. SHAW: I understand, but factually this is a fast
- 13 growing deadly bacteria. I know that I'm not arguing this is a
- 14 malpractice or anything like that, but what I'm arguing is you
- 15 have to consider when you delay admit somebody, that it is
- 16 the -- it could be the same as dumping because of the
- 17 condition. For instance, when you tell somebody --
- 18 THE COURT: All right. I think I understand the
- 19 arguments.
- MR. SHAW: Thanks.
- 21 THE COURT: But on the declaratory judgment, do we
- 22 really need to go down that road? I mean do we have an
- 23 agreement that there's no -- EMTALA doesn't require exhaustion
- through the MIPC?
- MR. SHAW: I would accept that.

- 1 THE COURT: Under federal law? You agree with that,
- 2 Mr. Hunt?
- 3 MR. HUNT: Yes, Your Honor. And as I said, I think
- 4 it's moot because we did it.
- 5 THE COURT: Okay. So with that --
- 6 MR. SHAW: Yes.
- 7 THE COURT: -- are you satisfied?
- 8 MR. SHAW: That's it. That would satisfy that.
- 9 THE COURT: So how do you want to handle it, just
- 10 withdraw that count based on the representations?
- 11 MR. SHAW: I'd like you to write it in your opinion so
- 12 from now on --
- 13 THE COURT: My problem is I'm not sure it's -- I don't
- 14 necessarily bid; on subject matter jurisdiction, but I don't
- 15 have to exercise, I have discretion whether to exercise under
- 16 the Declaratory Judgment Act. And I'm not sure it's really
- 17 ripe. I'm not sure there's a controversy involving it at this
- 18 point. And that's why I have some trouble and I don't want to
- 19 go down that road if I don't have to.
- 20 MR. SHAW: I understand. It's just at the plaintiff's
- 21 end it's a very costly decision to make and very -- if this
- 22 were a pure EMTALA claim, let's say patient dumping only, VA
- 23 involved.
- THE COURT: Yeah.
- MR. SHAW: It's a very, very -- it involves statute of

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limitations, it involves trying to get --
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              THE COURT: Well, this isn't a class action. I mean
     I'm not helping you with other cases here.
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              MR. SHAW: Oh, no, but I'm talking about people that
     come in that have to do this --
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              THE COURT: But that doesn't matter to me. This is
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7
     this case we're talking about.
 8
              MR. SHAW: Understood.
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              THE COURT: And it sounds like you've already gone
     through the process in this case, whether you should have or
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11
     not, and there's an agreement you don't have to go through it.
12
              MR. SHAW: Right. So it's moot.
              THE COURT: So it's moot.
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              MR. SHAW: Thanks.
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              THE COURT: Thank you all. I'll put out a written
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     order.
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              MR. HUNT: Thank you, Judge.
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              (The proceedings concluded at 11:28 a.m.,
     June 29, 2015.)
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1	COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	
2		
3	I, CYNTHIA FAZIO, Official Court Reporter, United	
4	States District Court, District of Hawaii, do hereby certify	
5	that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §753 the foregoing pages is a	
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7	reported proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that	
8	the transcript page format is in conformance with the	
9	regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United Stated.	
10	DATED at Honolulu, Hawaii, August 6, 2015.	
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13	/s/ Cynthia Fazio CYNTHIA FAZIO, RMR, CRR	
14	CINIIIA FAZIO, IGIR, CIRC	
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